

Hamilton Township (1103)

Introduction

This municipal chapter is an element of the Mercer County Wastewater Management Plan prepared by the Mercer County Planning Division in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15.

Hamilton Township is located in the western portion of Mercer County and encompasses approximately 40 square miles. The Township, like most of Mercer County, is primarily suburban with a small area of contiguous rural landscape still remaining. Both suburban and rural lands are intersected by a network of streams that make their way to a larger system of rivers and streams that define three sides of the Township boundary. About half of the stream corridors flow through preserved open space. Approximately 12 percent of the Township's land, all in the southern portion, is located in the agriculture development area and is eligible for farmland preservation programs. In addition, approximately 18 percent of the Township is comprised of public parks and preserved open space. These areas include small playgrounds, neighborhood parks and natural and cultural areas. The remaining land within the Township consists mainly of residential, housing and commercial uses. A mix of residential housing and residentially-zoned land is primarily found in the south and east of the Township while the central portion of the Township contains commercial and commercially-zoned land use. The Township zoning designations are shown on Map 4M.

Federal and state highways, including I-295, 195, I-95 (New Jersey Turnpike), Route 29, Route 206 and Route 130, also provide for a variety of land use. Route 130 is identified in the Mercer County Master Plan as a growth corridor. The Northeast Corridor rail line runs through the northern most section of the Township. The Hamilton train station is a stop on the Corridor and provides County residents access to the eastern seaboard and other modes of transportation, but primarily to New York City and Philadelphia.

The Census Bureau estimates that Hamilton Township had a population of 90,605 in 2009, which is a four percent (4%) increase from its year 2000 population of 87,109. The 2005 DVRPC (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission) population projection estimates Hamilton's population in 2010 to be 92,656 up from the 2005 population of 89,939. The 2007 DVRPC population projection estimates a slight increase in Hamilton's 2010 population to be 92,764.

Following are some important considerations for this municipality with respect to wastewater management planning:

- Hamilton Township is considered a non-urban municipality.

In this document the following terms may be used:

EDUs - Equivalent Dwelling Units - a measure where one unit is equivalent to wastewater effluent from one dwelling unit. NJDEP defines a dwelling unit to mean any building or portion of a building, permanent or temporary, used or proposed to be used as a residence either seasonally or throughout the year. Most often, EDU is used in reference to a single family home.

gpd – gallons per day, a unit of flow measurement.

GW – groundwater

HUC11 - Hydrologic Unit Code consisting of 11 digits – a United States Geological Survey (USGS) standard designation for subwatersheds delineated based on topography.

Individual Subsurface Disposal System (ISSDS) – means a system for the disposal of sanitary sewage into the ground, which is designed and constructed to treat sanitary sewage in a manner that will retain most of the settleable solids in a septic tank and discharge the liquid effluent to a disposal field.

mgd – million gallons per day, a unit of flow measurement.

Nitrate Dilution Model (NDM) –The NDM is required by NJDEP and follows the calculations methodology developed by the New Jersey Geological Service (NJGS). The NDM uses the soils type (SSURGO (NRCS) digital soils GIS layer revised by DEP) to estimate the minimum lot size needed to provide enough recharge to dilute nitrate to a specified target. This method is intended to be a guide for estimating the impact of nitrate from septic tanks on groundwater quality. The NDM uses the minimum lot size to calculate the number of EDUs possible for a given area.

Non-discharge areas - areas where additional wastewater generation and/or discharge are prohibited.

Non-urban municipality – any municipality not officially designated as an urban municipality

Septic Area – means an area to be served by systems for the disposal of sanitary sewage into the ground, which is designed and constructed to treat sanitary sewage in a manner that will retain most of the settleable solids in a septic tank and discharge the liquid effluent to a disposal field. Planning flows for septic areas are 2,000 gpd or less.

Service Areas – areas designated as wastewater discharge to permitted surface water facilities, groundwater facilities, ISSDS, or septic

Sewer Service Area (SSA) – represents the area to be served by a centralized treatment facility.

STP – Sewage Treatment Plant

SW – surface water

Undeveloped/under developed – areas within the existing or future sewer service area that could be developed

WMP – Wastewater Management Plan

WPCF – Water Pollution Control Facility

WPCP – Water Pollution Control Plant

WTF – Water Treatment Facility

WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Existing Infrastructure

The existing wastewater collection and conveyance infrastructure within this municipality consists of the following:

- Collection System – The majority of Hamilton Township is largely developed with the exception of the southern portion of the Township. The collection system and associated trunk sewers convey flow from these populated areas to the Hamilton WPCF.
- Pumping Stations – Hamilton Township currently has a total of 30 pump stations through-out the municipality. The pump stations service the trunk sewers in Hamilton Township's SSA.

The existing major wastewater treatment facilities located within the municipality include:

- Hamilton Township WPCF – the wastewater treatment facility serving the municipality.

In addition to the existing major wastewater treatment facility, Tables 1a and 1b include additional minor facilities in Hamilton Township regulated through NJDEP that have individual New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) discharge permits. Table 1a shows facilities which are indicated as discharge to groundwater (DGW). Table 1b shows facilities which are indicated as discharge to surface water.

The NJDEP, Division of Land Use Management, provided the data for Tables 1a and 1b.

The existing treatment facilities, if any, are illustrated on Map 2M.

Table 1a: NJPDES (DGW) Permitted Facilities within Hamilton Township

NJPDES Permit Number	Facility Name	Permit Program Code	Receiving Stream or Aquifer	Classification	Permittee	Contact Organization Name	Block	Lot	Permitted Flow (MGD)	Existing Flow (MGD)	Future Flow (MGD)	Discharge Category
NJ0159191	USPS TRENTON PROCESS AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER	GW	Pennsauken	II-A	USPS	USPS	2610	29	No data	No data	No data	GW Condensate
NJG0001198	ROBERT FROST WTF	GW	Quaternary Age Alluvial Deposits	II-A	Aqua New Jersey	Aqua New Jersey			0.029	No data	No Data	I2 Cooling Tower Overflow

Table 1b: NJPDES (DSW) Permitted Facilities within Hamilton Township

NJPDES Permit Number	Facility Name	Permit Program Code	Receiving Stream or Aquifer	Classification	Permittee	Contact Organization Name	Block	Lot	Permitted Flow (MGD)	Existing Flow (MGD)	Future Flow (MGD)	Discharge Category
NJ0026301	HAMILTON TWP DEPT OF WATER POL CONTROL	SW	Crosswicks Creek	FW2-NT/C2	Hamilton Township/ Hamilton Twp Dept of Water Pollution Control	Hamilton Township/ Hamilton Twp Dept of Water Pollution Control			16	9.704	12.735	Sanitary

Environmental Features

Hamilton Township is bordered by the New Jersey Turnpike and Interstate 295, with portions of the Township slightly extending beyond the I-295 boundary. The Township contains protected open space and recreational areas including but not limited to the following:

- Anchor Thread Park
- End Lake Park
- Foxmoor Border Park
- Hamilton Square Park
- John A. Roebling Memorial Park in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh
- Sayen Park
- Sunset Manor Park
- Van Horn Park
- Vannest State Wildlife Management Area (Mercer County Park)
- Veterans Park
- West Lake Park

There are approximately 3,185 acres in the Hamilton Township Agriculture Development Area (ADA). Farmland within the ADA is generally privately owned with publicly-held easements. A specific listing of these farms can be found in the Mercer County Farmland Preservation Plan.

Several streams run throughout the Township. Gropps Lake runs through the southeastern side of the Township on the east side of Interstate 195. It runs in the western direction and turns south forming a portion of the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. Spring Lake and Rowan Lake are both located within J.A. Roebling Memorial Park. These lakes flow south on the western border of the Township connecting with Duck Creek at the Interstate 295 and State Hwy 29 interchange.

Major streams include Assunpink Creek, Back Creek, Crosswicks Creek, Doctors Creek, Duck Creek, Edges Brook, Miry Run, and Pond Run.

Delineation of Service Areas and Planning Integration

Sewer Service Areas

Following are the sewer service areas within Hamilton Township. Existing areas served and future SSAs are shown on Maps 2M and 3M, respectively. The facilities providing treatment to these service areas have an associated facilities table in the Appendix.

- Hamilton Township WPCF (NJPDES NJ0026301) – This SSA encompasses about 75 percent of the entire Township.

An explanation of the mapping method used to delineate the SSA is included in Appendix A to this chapter.

Septic Areas

Individual subsurface sewage disposal systems (ISSDSs) consist of those areas with planning flows 2,000 gallons per day or less (i.e. residential septic systems) that are neither designated for sewer service nor as non-discharge areas. These areas can be seen in Maps 2M and 3M.

Future Wastewater Demand and Facilities

For the purposes of evaluating capacity and future sanitary flow rates, the full build-out of undeveloped or underdeveloped land in the Township was derived from existing zoning and the development potential of land parcels within the Township. The results of the build-out were compared to the permitted treatment capacity of major wastewater treatment facilities. This analysis is not required for the minor facilities.

The County used CommunityViz, a land use planning software package offered through Placeways, LLC. CommunityViz is an extension for ESRI's ArcGIS platform that uses existing zoning information to estimate future development. CommunityViz uses zoning data such as minimum lot size and set back requirements to evaluate potential number of future residential units or square feet of commercial space on individual parcels or within the municipality.

The County has identified a category of service indicated as "open with facilities". This category was created in response to a number of comments received from municipalities to include recreational lands, many purchased through public funding, in the Future SSA. The requests pertain to open space properties that currently have support facilities or may have them in the future. The intent of this service type category is to account for up to 2,000 gpd of wastewater generation from these parcels, while recognizing they will continue to function as municipal open space and recreational facilities. The estimated flow has been included in the capacity analysis for the facility serving the closest sewer service area. This category gives municipalities flexibility in planning for essential facilities that support existing and future recreational programming at the local level.

Sewer Service Area Wastewater Capacity Analysis

Table 2a presents the results of the Build-out Analysis within the SSA indicated above.

Table 2a: Hamilton Township Build-out Table (SSAs)

NJPDES Permit Number	Major Public Wastewater Treatment Facility	Capacity Allocation/ Permitted Capacity (mgd)	Total Existing Flow (mgd)**	Total Flow Attributed to TWAs Approved But Unconnected (mgd)	Residential Build-out Flow (mgd)	Non-Residential Build-out Flow (mgd)	Existing Septic Systems Flow (mgd)	Total Projected Build-out Flow (mgd)	Remaining Capacity (mgd)
				Committed Flow (mgd)					
NJ0026301	Hamilton Twp WPCF	16.0	8.366	0.370	0.473	0.870	0	10.079	See facility table
				8.736					

*Refer to Facility Table for Hamilton Township WPCF.

**Total Existing Flow is taken from DMR data February 2011 through January 2012.

Treatment Works Approvals (TWAs) approved by NJDEP for unconnected projects within the Hamilton Township consist of the following:

Table 2b – Treatment Works Approvals

TWA	Facility	Unconnected Flow (mgd)
Pope Avenue Subdivision	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0009
NJ School Board Assoc. Headquarters	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0052
AR & C Hamilton Storage Facility	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0002
Hilton Garden Inn & TGIF	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0155
Enchantment Villas Kuser Road	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0461
Waterview Center Office Complex	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.030
Statement of Consent San. Sewer Amendment	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.030
Montage at Hamilton	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0351
Horizon 3-Story Office Building	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.012
Hamilton Station	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.150
Hamilton Clocktower Corp. Ctr.	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.017
Twin Ponds (Crestwood Construction)	Hamilton Township WPCF	0.0275
Total		0.370

The capacity of Hamilton Township WPCF is shown in the Facility Table. The facility has no formal agreements with regard to allocation of treatment capacity. Flow to the facility comes almost entirely from within Hamilton Township.

Undeveloped and underdeveloped parcels are shown on Map 3M.

Septic Area Wastewater Capacity Analysis

Table 3 presents the results of the Build-out Analysis within the ISSDS. The ISSDS is shown on Map 3M.

The breakdown by HUC11 subwatershed is shown below.

Table 3 –Hamilton Township Build-out by HUC

HUC	Build-out Potential (Equivalent Dwelling Units)		Surplus/Deficit
	Using Nitrate Dilution Model	Under Municipal Zoning	
02040105230	37.2	46.3	-9.1
02040105240	121.5	53.4	68.1
02040201030	0.0	137.9	-137.9
02040201050	184.3	39.0	145.3
02040201060	239.7	105.0	134.7
02040201070	135.7	77.6	58.0

Table 3 shows the variation in build-out results based on existing zoning as compared to the potential EDUs predicted by the Nitrate Dilution Model (NDM). The zoning based build-out and the NDM should be run on a HUC11 basis to determine if the entire HUC has sufficient nitrate dilution capacity to accommodate full zoning build-out.

For Table 3, equivalent dwelling units were calculated using the following formula: [potential residential flow (gpd) + potential non-residential flow (gpd)]/500 gpd/EDU. Potential non-residential flow in septic areas was estimated using existing zoning criteria (e.g. FAR) and a flow factor of 0.125 gpd/square foot.

The Septic Area build-out capacity analysis for Hamilton Township was based on the 2.0 mg/L statewide standard for the target concentration of nitrate in groundwater.

Following are the results of this analysis shown in Table 3 for the Hamilton Township's portion of the HUC.

- For HUC11 02040105230 and 02040201030, the build-out results based on existing zoning are more than the number of potential EDUs generated by the Nitrate Dilution Model (NDM) for septic capacity, and therefore, further analysis of these HUCs will be required.

Regarding HUC11 02040105230, while there is a small deficit, the County Summary shows that this overall HUC 11 is in balance when considering the other municipalities.

Regarding HUC11 02040201030, the area is located in the City of Trenton and Hamilton Township and is adjacent to the tidal portion of the Delaware River. The Landscape Data 3.1 indicates that the land within the HUC is comprised of freshwater tidal marshes, deciduous wooded wetlands, and deciduous forest. The portion of the HUC in Trenton is comprised of parcels that are currently connected to sewer and the wastewater is treated at the Trenton WTP. The Hamilton Township portion of the HUC (approximately

700 acres) is primarily comprised of publicly (state and county) owned land (70%) with industrial and vacant land comprising the remainder. The publicly owned land is either preserved open space or deed restricted. The developed properties are serviced by septic systems. PSE&G is the predominant industrial land owner. The PSE&G Mercer Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant, is located here. Due to the amount of preserved or deed-restricted land in public ownership, and the existing environmental constraints, full buildout based on current zoning is likely to be limited. Any land development within this portion of the HUC11 in Hamilton Township will be required to meet all applicable DEP regulations for septic (ISSDS) design, construction, operation and maintenance.

- For the remaining HUC11s in Hamilton Township, the build-out results based on existing zoning are less than the number of potential EDUs generated by the Nitrate Dilution Model (NDM) for septic capacity, and therefore, no change in zoning is required.

A list of zoning codes and descriptions are included on Map 4M.

Appendix A – Basis for Service Area Delineations

SSA (Sewer Service Area)

The SSA designation is for areas from which wastewater is designated to flow to a permitted wastewater treatment facility.

In assigning the SSA designations shown, several data sources were considered:

- Cross-Acceptance proceedings (2004)
- NJDEP's adopted SSA map for Mercer County (2006)
- NJDEP's draft SSA map for Mercer County (2008) including revised editions based on public comments received from December 2008 through March 2011; two editions of the original 2008 map were reviewed periodically during this period once in June 2009, once in February 2010, and once in November 2010 prior to the NJDEP Public Meeting in December 2010.
- Data (such as collection system extent) obtained from municipalities or private entities.
- Existing TWA permits
- Sewer service areas provided by existing sewerage authorities and wastewater treatment facilities

Parcels that were within previous draft or adopted sewer service areas, or existing sewer service areas provided by sewerage authorities or wastewater facilities, were given the SSA designation, unless specific guidance was provided to remove them. In early 2010, the NJDEP issued Administrative Consent Order 2010-03. Subsequent to adoption of the ACO, all mapping followed the protocol established in the ACO.

Proximity to existing collection system was considered if service for a given parcel was indeterminate based on other criteria.

Parcels with valid NJDEP Treatment Works Approvals (TWA) were automatically given an SSA designation.

Septic Areas (ISSDS)

The ISSDS designation represents those areas served by septic systems. For the purpose of mapping, the ISSDS designation also represents those areas that are not designated as any of the other categories (SSA or Open/Utility as described below).

Open & Utility (Open Space, Open with Facilities, Utility)

The Open & Utility designation identifies the following:

- Open Space – Mercer County Planning Division maintains an open space layer. The county boundary is the layer's geographic extent. The open space layer is developed from several sources including a county-owned land inventory, Green Acres ROSI, preserved farmland inventory, municipal open space inventories, and state and non-profit open space inventories. The open space layer served as the basis for identifying undevelopable land designated through the Plan as Municipal, County, or State Land, Deed Restricted properties, Conservation Easements, and certain lands overseen by non-profit entities.

- Open with Facilities - This category was created in response to comments received from municipalities to include recreational lands in the Future SSA. These open space properties currently have support facilities or may have them in the future. This category gives municipalities flexibility in planning for essential facilities that support existing and future recreational programming at the local level.
- Utility - tax assessment data was used to identify lands owned by public utilities.

This designation indicates that these parcels are undevelopable, except for instances where public programs require the construction of public facilities.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) designation applies to those areas that have been mapped as such by NJDEP. They consist of the following:

- Wetlands – areas based on NJDEP’s Land Use/Land Cover feature class (2002)
- Stream corridors – areas which incorporate the appropriate buffer along surface waters based on NJDEP’s stream classification (2008)
- Natural Heritage Priority Sites – areas of critical importance due to the presence of rare plant species and ecological communities (2007)
- Landscape Project Areas (Rank 3, 4, and 5) – areas representing wildlife habitat mapping for community planning and endangered species conservation. Rank 3 is associated with NJ State threatened species. Rank 4 is associated with NJ State endangered species. Rank 5 is associated with Federal threatened or endangered species (2007)

Methodology

The following methodology was employed to designate all parcels within Mercer County as either SSA or ISSDS, except for parcels designated as Open/Open with Facilities/Utility as described above. The following is the general methodology used for preparing the Draft SSA Map.

1. Parcels were evaluated to determine if:
 - a. It was designated under the Mercer County’s open space inventory.
 - b. It was owned by a public utility.Any parcels falling within the above categories were designated as Open/Utility.
2. The remaining parcels were evaluated to determine if they were part of previous approved SSA. If so, these parcels were designated SSA, unless directed otherwise by NJDEP, Mercer County, or the Municipality.
3. The remaining parcels not designated as previously part of an SSA were also evaluated to determine if any existing wastewater generating structures were present onsite using Mercer County’s building footprint (January 2009) layer and aerial photography (2007). County staff further reviewed these parcels with more current aerial photography (2009). COAH and local approvals were also considered in this evaluation. If sewage generating potential was identified, the parcel was further evaluated to determine if it was readily

sewerable by an existing collection system without extending it. If this was the case, the parcel was designated as SSA unless:

- a. A significant portion of the parcel is undeveloped and falls within the constrained boundary AND
- b. Comments were received from NJDEP indicating the constrained portion of the parcel was to be excluded from the SSA.

In cases where a) and b) above apply, the parcel was split along the Constrained boundary. In this case, the portion of the parcel within the Constrained boundary was designated ISSDS and the remaining unconstrained portion was designated SSA.

4. For parcels not addressed under 1, 2, or 3 above, any vacant lands were evaluated to determine if it was readily sewerable by an existing collection system without extending it. If this was the case, the parcel was designated as SSA unless:
 - a. Comments were received from NJDEP, Mercer County, or the Municipality indicating the subject parcel should be excluded from SSA category. If such was the case, the parcel was designated ISSDS.
 - b. The parcel was constrained in whole or in part by Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). If this was the case, the portion of the parcel within the constrained boundary was designated as ISSDS and the remaining unconstrained portion was designated as SSA.
5. Parcels that were not designated under 1, 2, 3, or 4 above were designated as ISSDS.